IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend 89, 95, 97-99, 105, 107, 108, 138, 140 and 151 as follows.

1- 88. Cancelled.

89.   (Currently Amended) A method to control overtime in an electronic auction, comprising:

defining a first time interval corresponding to at least a portion of time during which bids are submitted to the auction for a first lot defined at least in part by a buyer, a second time interval, and a first closing time for the first lot, wherein the first closing time is at least initially defined as a specified scheduled closing time;

determining that at least one new bid for the first lot is received by a server associated with a sponsor of the auction during the first time interval, the at least one new bid being received close to the first closing time;

determining a correlation between the at least one new bid and at least one other bid previously received for the first lot; and

extending the first closing time using the second time interval if the correlation between the at least ~~at least~~ one new bid and the at least one other bid satisfies a trigger criterion <u>that is based on a rank of the at least one new bid and the at least one other bid</u>, wherein the extending is performed using the server;

wherein the sever and the at least one bidder participating in the auction are coupled electronically over a communication network during the auction, the bids are submitted by at least one bidder to the server over the network, and the at least one new bid is transmitted to the server over the network; and wherein the first closing time corresponds to an end of the first time interval if the first closing time is not extended, and the first closing time corresponds to an end of the second time interval if the first time interval is extended.

90-91. (Canceled)

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the second time interval varies during the auction.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the second time interval is determined in accordance with an overtime extension parameter that is specific to the first lot.

94. (Canceled)

95. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 89, wherein the trigger criterion is satisfied if further requires that an amount of the at least one new bid is be within a predetermined amount of the at least one other bid for the first lot.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the trigger criterion is satisfied if the at least one new bid is within a predetermined rank of the at least one other bid for the first lot.

97. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 89, wherein the trigger criterion is satisfied if further requires that the at least one new bid is be within a predetermined percentage of the at least one other bid for the first lot.

98. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 89, wherein the trigger criterion is satisfied if further requires that the at least one new bid is be received from an incumbent supplier.

99. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium for controlling overtime in an electronic auction, the medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the following steps a method comprising:

defining a first time interval corresponding to at least a portion of time during which bids are submitted to the auction for a first lot defined at least in part by a buyer, a second time interval, and a first closing time for the first lot, wherein the first closing time is at least initially defined as a specified scheduled closing time;

determining that at least one new bid for the first lot is received by a server associated with a sponsor of the auction during the first time interval, the at least one new bid being received close to the first closing time;

determining a correlation between the at least one new bid and at least one other bid previously received for the first lot; and

extending the first closing time using the second time interval if the correlation between the at least at least one new bid and the at least one other bid satisfies a trigger criterion that is based on a rank of the at least one new bid and the at least one other bid;

wherein a sponsor of the auction and each bidder participating in the auction are coupled electronically over a communication network during the auction, the bids are submitted by the at least one bidder to the sponsor over the network, and the at least one new bid is transmitted to the sponsor over the network;

wherein the first closing time corresponds to an end of the first time interval if the first closing time is not extended, and the first closing time corresponds to an end of the second time interval if the first time interval is extended.

100-101.   (Canceled)

102.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein the second time interval varies during the auction.

103.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein the second time interval is determined in accordance with an overtime extension parameter that is specific to the first lot.

104.   (Canceled)

105.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein the trigger condition is satisfied if further requires that the at least one new bid is be within a predetermined amount of the at least one other bid for the first lot.

106.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, the trigger condition is satisfied if the at least one new bid is within a predetermined rank of the at least one other bid for the first lot.

107.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein the trigger condition is satisfied if further requires that the at least one new bid is be within a predetermined percentage of the at least one other bid for the first lot.

108.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein the trigger condition is satisfied if further requires that the at least one new is be received from an incumbent supplier.

109-137 (Canceled)

138.   (Currently Amended) A method to control overtime in an electronic auction, comprising:

defining a first time interval, a second time interval, and a first closing time for a lot defined at least at in part by a buyer, wherein the first closing time is at least initially defined as a specific scheduled closing time;

determining that at least one new bid for the first lot is received by a server associated with a sponsor of the auction during the first time interval, the at least one behind market bid being received close to the first closing time;

determining a correlation between the at least one new bid and at least one other bid previously received for the first lot; and

extending the first closing time using the second time interval if the correlation between the at least at least one new bid and the at least one other bid satisfies a trigger criterion that is based on a rank of the at least one new bid and the at least one other bid, wherein the extending step is performed using the server.

139. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 138, wherein the second time interval varies during the auction.

140. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 138, wherein the trigger condition is satisfied if further requires that an amount of the at least one new bid is be within at least one of the predetermined amount, a predetermined rank, and a predetermined percentage of the at least one other bid for the lot.

141-143 (Canceled)

144. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 138, wherein the first time interval comprises an overtime trigger interval before the first closing time.

145.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 138, wherein the second time interval comprises an overtime extension interval that extends the first closing time.

146.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 138, wherein the second time interval extends to a second closing time, further comprising:

defining a third time interval, a fourth time interval, and a second overtime condition for the lot, the third time interval not being equal to the fourth time interval;

determining whether the second overtime condition occurs during the third time interval; and

extending the second closing time by the fourth time interval in accordance with the second determination.

147-150. (Canceled)

151.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium for controlling overtime in an electronic auction, the medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

define an overtime triggering interval, an extension time interval, and a closing time for a lot defined at least in part by a buyer, wherein the first closing time is at least initially defined as a specific scheduled closing time;

determine whether at least one new bid for the first lot is received during the overtime triggering interval;

determining a correlation between the at least one new bid and at least one other bid previously received for the first lot; and

extending the closing time using the extension time interval if the correlation between the at least at least one new bid and the at least one other bid satisfies a trigger criterion <u>that is based on a rank of the at least one new bid and the at least one other bid</u>.

152.   (Canceled)

153.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 151, wherein the trigger criterion is satisfied if an amount of the at least one new bid is within at least one of a predetermined amount, a predetermined rank, and a predetermined percentage of the at least one other bid for the lot.

154.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 151, wherein the trigger criterion is satisfied if the at least one new bid is submitted by an incumbent supplier

155-162   (Canceled)